

Chronicle

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR VIACHESLAV B. KASHKIN

Professor Viacheslav B. Kashkin, an influential linguist and one of the leading scholars of Voronezh State University, died suddenly, 9 September, 2014. He was only 58. It is a great loss for his family, colleagues and friends. He is survived by his wife, Tatiana Raspopova, and his daughter Alexandra.

Viacheslav Kashkin was born in Voronezh, on December 15, 1955. During his school years he showed interest in learning languages. In total he mastered 12 languages including English, French, German, Polish, Hungarian and others. He was also keen on chemistry and was a talented photographer.



In 1973 Viacheslav Kashkin became a student of the English Department of the Faculty of Romance and Germanic Linguistics, Voronezh State University. His professors and fellow students remember him as a person of encyclopedic knowledge and brilliant talent who effectively combined studies, academic research and social life.

Viacheslav Kashkin's growing interest in languages and linguistics was supervised by the outstanding linguists – prof. Igor P. Raspopov and prof. Viktor A. Lisitsky. In 1978 Viacheslav Kashkin graduated from VSU and in 1980 he became a PhD student in Leningrad State University. His dissertation “Analytic Constructions with Perfective Meaning” was supervised by a renowned scholar prof. Yury S. Maslov, who was at that time Kashkin's academic advisor.

After earning his degree from Leningrad State University in 1983 Viacheslav Kashkin started teaching English as a second language in Voronezh State Polytechnic Institute and from 1988 until 2002 he held a chair of modern languages and theory of communication there.

Viacheslav Kashkin's career of a linguist developed in Leningrad State University where in 1993 he became a doctoral student of prof. E.D. Panfilov. This time Kashkin's research focused on functional grammar. He defended his doctoral dissertation “The Principle in Universal Functional Grammar” in 1996 in Leningrad State University.

From 2002 Viacheslav Kashkin held a chair of translation studies and intercultural communication in Voronezh State University. His colleagues have always described him as a democratic and tolerant person. He had the gift of uniting people and often acted as a bridge between, and antidote for various views and opinions.

Prof. Kashkin's activities spanned research, enthusiastic teaching, program directorship, translation and interpreting. He was an active member of the Russian Communication Association and the Union of Translators of Russia. For many years he was the head of the Voronezh branch of the Union. In 2012 and 2014 he organised a seminar “Discourse. Interpretation. Translation”, which became an intellectual platform for sharing novel ideas and research methods.

Viacheslav Kashkin was a welcome guest in many Russian universities. He travelled a lot with lectures, took part in conferences in Russia and around the world, supervised PhD dissertations.

Prof. Kashkin lived up to Sapir's words: “Language is a guide to ‘social reality’” (Sapir 1921: 162). The strands of Kashkin's scholarly work included translation studies, comparative linguistics, functional grammar, discourse analysis and corpus linguistics. His major publications include books *Функциональная типология перфекта* [Functional Typology of the Perfect] (1991),

Функциональная типология: неопределённый артикль [Functional Typology of an Indefinite Article] (2001), *Парадоксы границы в языке и коммуникации* [The Paradox of Boarder in Language and Communication] (2010a). His textbooks *Основы теории коммуникации: краткий курс* [The Basics of the Theory of Communication] (2007), *Введение в теорию дискурса* [Introduction in the Discourse Theory] (2010b), *Введение в теорию коммуникации* [Introduction in the Theory of Communication] (2013) remain among the most popular and often-cited course books in Russian universities.

Viacheslav Kashkin was a member of editorial boards of a number of journals including “Proceedings of Voronezh State University. Series: Linguistics and Intercultural Communication”, “Issues in Cognitive Linguistics”, “Russian Journal of Communication”, and “Stylistyka”. Prof. Kashkin also was the founder and the editor-in-chief of the annual volume “Language, Communication and Social Environment”.

Viacheslav Kashkin leaves behind his family and many students who have learned much from him about linguistics and also about the possibility of being a generous and committed teacher. Prof. Kashkin taught his courses with great enthusiasm to undergraduate and graduate students. His original and complex ideas have been very influential in Russian linguistics. His was a great colleague and an inspiring academic supervisor.

Viacheslav Kashkin pursued his work until his final day. He will always be remembered for his love of life, his generosity and his sensitivity to the needs of other people.

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